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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Bolduc et al.

EXAMINER: TBA

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FOR: SURGICAL HELICAL FASTENER WITH APPLICATOR

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as enclosed are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label Number EL 985 195 843 US addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: January 12, 2004


Dana A. Brussel